

Appl. No. 10/6724658
Amdt. Dated March 14, 2008
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 44 was objected to because of informalities. Claims 1-12 and 35-45 were rejected in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,148,689 under 35 USC §102(f) stating that the Applicants did not invent the subject matter. Further, claims 1-6, 11-12, 35-39, 42 and 44 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,518,867. However, the Examiner proceeded to indicate that claims 7-10, 40-41, 43 and 44 were dependent upon a rejected base claim, **but would be allowable** if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7, 10, 40 and 43 are amended to present them in independent form. The amended claims 7, 10, 40 and 43 include elements of their respective earlier independent claims and any intervening claims. Further, dependent claims 3, 4, 11, 37 and 44 are amended to mainly correct their dependencies. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12-36, 38, 39 and 45 are canceled.

In view of the foregoing amendment and for the reasons set out above, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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